

# **Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel**

## **PIRT MEETING SUMMARY**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TOWN CENTER ONE, 101 ISRAEL ROAD SE, ROOM 232  
TUMWATER, WASHINGTON**

### **PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dorothy Tibbetts, Acting Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5478
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2051

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Allan Felsot	Washington State University	(509) 372-7365
Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3391
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington	(206) 616-1452
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Joe Cropley	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Richard Fenske	University of Washington	(206) 543-0916
Ben Hamilton	Department of Health	(360) 236-3364
Heather Hansen	Friends of Farms and Forests	(360) 705-2040
Michael Yost	University of Washington	(206) 685-7243

### ***PIRT Review Panel Activities***

Dorothy Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved. The October 20, 2005 meeting summary was approved as distributed.

### **PIRT Annual Reports**

Preparation of the 2005 Annual PIRT Report is on schedule.

### **Letter of support**

The PIRT Panel sent a letter to the Department of Agriculture in support of the proposed rule that would require applicators using air, airblast equipment or over-head chemigation to give two days written notice before applying pesticides carrying a "Danger/Poison" label near schools, hospitals, nursing homes and state-licensed adult or child day care centers.

### **Proposed Revision of PIRT RCW**

The Panel discussed recommendations for changes to RCW 70.104.090. Recommendations submitted to date concern: participation on the Panel by environmental agencies, number of meetings per year, and possibly deleting the re-entry elements. All additional comments and recommendations from Panel members are to be submitted to Ann Wick by January 31, 2006.

### **Science Corner**

Richard Fenske and Michael Yost with the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington, led a discussion of *The Washington aerial spray drift study: Children's exposure to methamidophos in an agricultural community following fixed-wing aircraft applications* (Weppner et al). The study characterized exposures of eight children living in an agricultural community near potato fields that were treated by aerial application with an organophosphate insecticide. Investigators collected outdoor and indoor samples, samples from the children's hands and periodic urine samples. While exposure was documented, the levels did not necessarily indicate an acute or chronic health problem. During the discussion, Dr. Fenske and Dr. Yost referred to the related papers *The Washington aerial spray drift study: Modeling pesticide spray drift deposition from an aerial application* (Tsai et al) and *The Washington aerial spray drift study: Assessment of off-target organophosphorous insecticide atmospheric movement by plant surface volatilization* (Ramaprasad et al).

Dr. Yost reported on his opportunity to participate in the review of the United Kingdom *Royal Commission on Pesticides and Bystander Exposure* Report. The website for the report is [www.rcep.org.uk/pesticides.htm](http://www.rcep.org.uk/pesticides.htm). The document defines a set of Best Practices that will be used for mediation and conflict resolution between parties. This document is separate from the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings (Green Code) which provides practical advice on the safe use of pesticides in agriculture, horticulture, amenity and forestry situations.

The findings of another relevant California study concerning children and exposure to agricultural pesticides near schools are in the Community issue Paper No. 1. *Farming Near Schools: A Community Based Approach to Protecting Children*. The link is [http://www.ventura.org/agcommissioner/Public\\_records/Afa%20final%20paper.pdf](http://www.ventura.org/agcommissioner/Public_records/Afa%20final%20paper.pdf).

### **Update on West Nile Virus in Washington State for 2005**

West Nile virus was found in Yakima County in one horse, one bird and two mosquito pools in August and September 2005. The mosquito control district increased control efforts (larviciding and adulticiding) immediately. West Nile virus was first identified in Washington State in 2002. It is the only state where no human cases have been identified. Mapping of the human cases in Oregon and Idaho indicates that the virus is moving closer to Washington. A positive note is that, nationally, the number of human cases dropped from an annual high of about 10,000 to 2,300 in 2005.

### **Update on Cholinesterase Monitoring**

The Panel was reminded by Gabrielle Toutonghi that in 2006, the Cholinesterase (ChE) rule will be supported through WISHA's compliance and consultation services and that field data will not be routinely collected. In 2004, L&I conducted field data collection activities through compliance services and, in 2005, L&I assigned a dedicated research investigator to collect data. Panel members agreed to send a letter to L&I recommending that research investigations of ChE depressions continue.

Preliminary review of the 2005 ChE results indicate that airblast spraying with Lorsban seemed to be associated with the majority of depressions. No illnesses were detected but the research investigations identified activities that could result in exposures. As monitoring was handled as a research project, there were no penalties to employers for rule violations of the Worker Protection Standard and other agriculture safety standards. The following types of violations were identified: Respiratory protection (31 violations), PPE (17), decontamination (12), pesticide handler training (6), pesticide safety information (3) and one each for first aid, safe operation of equipment and ChE monitoring.

The Public Health Laboratory agreed to provide testing services through 2005. Options for continuing at the Public Health Laboratory or moving to a private laboratory are under discussion.

### **2005 Action Recommendations and 2006 Action Recommendations**

The Panel ran out of time before the 2005 Action Recommendations could be discussed and new Action Recommendations for 2006 could be identified. This discussion will continue at the January 2006 PIRT meeting.

### *Agency Updates*

#### **Agriculture**

There was good attendance (16-24 participants) at the public hearings held in Wenatchee (11/2/05), Yakima (11/7/05) and Olympia (11/14/05) for the proposed rule that would require applicators using air, airblast equipment or over-head chemigation to give two days written notice before applying pesticides carrying a “Danger/Poison” label near schools, hospitals, nursing homes and state-licensed adult or child day care centers. A report is now being compiled by the hearing officer and will go to WSDA directors for a final decision.

#### **Labor and Industries**

L&I held public hearings on October 26 in Yakima and October 28 in Tumwater to receive comments concerning changes proposed by the ChE Scientific Committee and ChE Advisory Committee to the ChE Monitoring rules in chapter 296-307 WAC, Safety Standards for Agriculture. No members of the public attended the hearings.

#### **Washington Poison Center**

Dr. William Robertson is stepping down as Medical Director of Washington Poison Center as of January 2, 2006. He will continue at WPC as a Senior Consultant. The WPC Board will conduct a national search for a Board Certified medical toxicologist to fill the Medical Director position.

### *Future Meetings*

The PIRT Panel agreed to change Panel meetings from two hours to three hours. The Panel recommended researching a meeting site that is more convenient for all members. The time for the three hour meetings is still to be determined.

Ann Wick recommended that Karl Arne, EPA Region 10, be invited to do his presentation on the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative in Eastern Washington.

### **Location of Future Meetings**

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S4. The November meeting in the Olympia area will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.